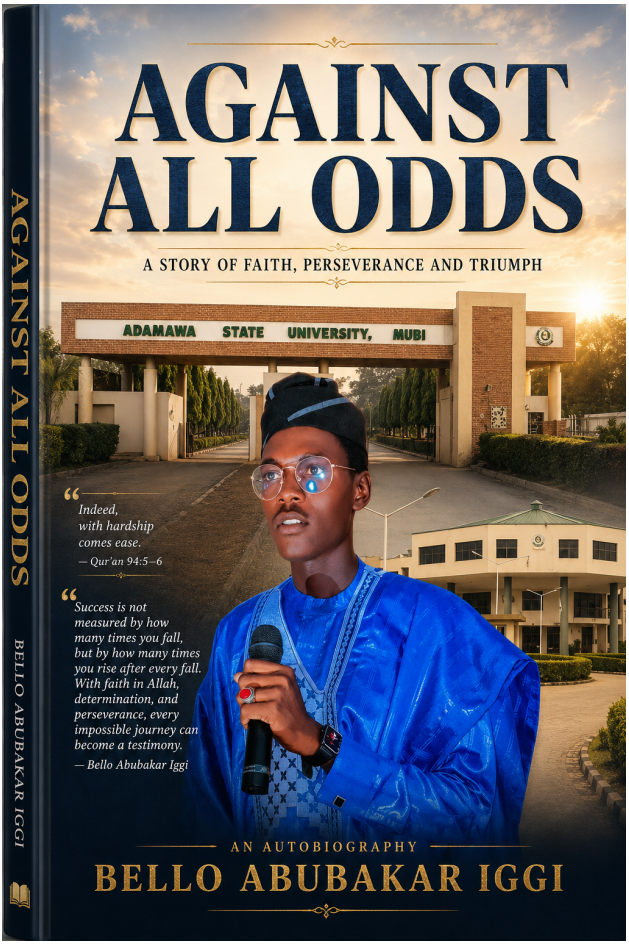
AGAINST ALL ODDS
BELLO ABUBAKAR IGGI
AGAINST ALL ODDS
A STORY OF FAITH, PERSEVERANCE AND TRIUMPH
ADAMAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, MUBI
"Indeed, with hardship comes ease."
— Qur'an 94:5–6
"Success is not measured by how many times you fall, but by how many times you rise after every fall. With faith in Allah, determination, and perseverance, every impossible journey can become a testimony."
— Bello Abubakar Iggi
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
BELLO ABUBAKAR IGGI

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TITLE PAGE

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A Journey of Faith, Perseverance, and Hope

By

Bello Abubakar Iggi

A True Story of Faith, Sacrifice, Determination, and Hope

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02--Copyright Page

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Author: Bello Abubakar Iggi

Title: Against All Odds: A Journey of Faith, Perseverance, and Hope

Printed in Nigeria.-

QUR'ANIC VERSE (EPIGRAPH)

«"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves."»

— Qur'an 13:11

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«"Success is not measured by how many times you fall, but by how many times you rise after every fall. With faith in Allah, determination, and perseverance, every impossible journey can become a testimony."»

— Bello Abubakar Iggi

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QUOTATION PAGE

«"Success is not measured by how many times you fall, but by how many times you rise after every fall. With faith in Allah, determination, and perseverance, every impossible journey can become a testimony."»

— Bello Abubakar Iggi

OPENING VERSE

«"Indeed, with hardship comes ease."»

— Qur'an 94:5–6

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03..Dedication

Dedication

I dedicate this book first and foremost to Almighty Allah, whose mercy, guidance, and countless blessings have sustained me through every stage of my life.

To my beloved father, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi Iggi, whose sacrifices, prayers, discipline, and unconditional love laid the foundation for my education and success.

To my beloved mother, Hajiya Zulaihat Abubakar Iggi, whose endless prayers, care, patience, and encouragement gave me the strength to keep moving forward despite every hardship.

I also dedicate this book to my family, teachers, mentors, such as Prof, Yusuf Abdullahi Manu And My Malam Abbas Abdullahi Manu and Dr,Adamu jibrillah And Dr, Ezikiel mijah and Prof Adamu Yahaya Ganye friends, and every young person who has ever faced difficulties in life. May my story remind you that with faith in Allah, determination, and perseverance, no challenge is impossible to overcome.

This book is dedicated to everyone who refuses to give up—Against All Odds.

-

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-ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I give all glory, honour, and gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT), whose mercy, guidance, and protection have sustained me throughout every stage of my life. Without His grace, this journey would not have been possible.

I express my deepest appreciation to my beloved parents, especially my father, whose sacrifices, prayers, guidance, and unconditional love laid the foundation for everything I have achieved. Your belief in me gave me the courage to keep moving forward even during my darkest moments.

To my beloved mother, thank you for your endless prayers, love, patience, and encouragement. Your support has always been a source of strength.

My sincere appreciation goes to Professor Yusuf Abdullahi Manu, whose kindness changed the direction of my life by making it possible for me to pursue my university education. Your generosity will forever remain one of the greatest blessings in my life.

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I am equally grateful to Malam Abbas Abdullahi Manu and his family for welcoming me into their home and treating me like one of their own. Your kindness and support will never be forgotten.

My heartfelt thanks also go to Labaran Ganye and his family for their love, care, and encouragement during my stay in Mubi.

I sincerely appreciate Dr. Adamu Jibrillah, Head of the Department of Economics, Malam Nuru, and everyone who supported me financially, academically, morally, or spiritually throughout my university journey.

To my brothers, sisters, relatives, friends, classmates, lecturers, and everyone who contributed to my growth in one way or another, thank you. Every word of encouragement, every prayer, and every act of kindness became part of my success story.

Finally, I dedicate this book to every young person facing difficulties in life. Never lose hope. No matter how difficult the journey may seem, with faith in Allah, perseverance, and determination, every obstacle can become a stepping stone toward success.

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May Allah (SWT) reward everyone who has been part of my journey. Ameen.

Additional Acknowledgements

No matter how many hardships and difficult moments I have experienced in my life, I can never forget the extraordinary kindness shown to me by the family of Alhaji Abdullahi Manu. Their generosity, compassion, and unwavering support became a source of hope during some of the most challenging periods of my educational journey.

My sincere appreciation goes to the entire Manu family, especially Muhammad Abdullahi Manu (Yaya Babba), Professor Yusuf Abdullahi Manu, Dr. Aliyu Abdullahi Manu, Yunusa Abdullahi Manu, Malam Abbas Abdullahi Manu, and Sulaiman Abdullahi Manu. Each of you contributed to my life in different ways, and I remain forever grateful for your love, encouragement, and support.

I also pay special tribute to the late Mama Aisha Abdullahi Manu (Nenne), the respected mother of this wonderful family. She was a truly kind-hearted woman whose warmth and

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generosity touched many lives. I pray that Almighty Allah forgives her shortcomings, grants her eternal rest, and admits her into Al-Jannah Al-Firdaus. Ameen.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Aunty Hadiya Sale Sardauna. From the very first day I arrived until the day I left, she treated me with genuine care and kindness. She never made me feel like a stranger. She welcomed me into her home, ensured that I was well fed, and cared for me as though I were a member of her own family. I will forever remain grateful for her motherly love.

I am equally grateful to Zuwaira Abdulmalik (Zuleey). We shared a relationship built on mutual respect, kindness, and understanding, and I sincerely appreciate the role she played during my stay in Adamawa.

Today, if Bello Abubakar has become the person he is, much of the credit belongs to Professor Yusuf Abdullahi Manu. Through him, Allah opened doors that I could never have opened by myself. May Almighty Allah reward him abundantly, bless him with good health, long life in His service, and continue to increase him in wisdom, honour, and blessings. Ameen.

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I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Auwalu Kure Iggi, who has always been like a father to me. Your advice, encouragement, and concern for my well-being have had a lasting impact on my life, and I will always be grateful.

Finally, to my beloved younger sister, Maimuna Abubakar Iggi, I am proud of you and grateful to have you in my life. I pray that Almighty Allah blesses your marriage with peace, happiness, abundant mercy, and endless blessings. May He protect you and your family always. Ameen

circumstances do not determine your future. With faith in Allah, patience, determination, and perseverance, every obstacle can become a stepping stone toward success.

As you turn these pages, I invite you to walk with me through the victories, the failures, the lessons, and the miracles that shaped my life. My sincere hope is that, by the time you reach the final page, you will find renewed courage to keep pursuing your own dreams regardless of the challenges before you.

May Allah (SWT) make this book a source of inspiration, hope,

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and benefit to everyone who reads it.

— Bello Abubakar Iggi

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FORWARD

By the Author

Every life has a story. Some stories are filled with comfort, while others are shaped by hardship. Some journeys begin with opportunities, while others begin with obstacles that seem impossible to overcome.

This book is the story of my life—not because I believe I am extraordinary, but because I believe that Allah's mercy is extraordinary.

There were moments when I thought my dreams would never come true. There were days when financial hardship, academic challenges, and personal struggles almost made me lose hope. Yet, Allah never abandoned me. Every challenge became a lesson. Every delay became preparation. Every disappointment became an opportunity to grow.

That is why I chose the title Against All Odds.

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I wrote this book to encourage every young person who may be facing difficulties today. No matter where you come from, no matter how many times life knocks you down, never stop believing in Allah and never stop working towards your dreams.

If my story gives even one person the courage to keep moving forward, then writing this book has been worthwhile.

I dedicate this work to Almighty Allah, my beloved parents, my family, my teachers, my mentors, my friends, and every person who stood by me during the most difficult moments of my life.

May this book inspire hope, strengthen faith, and remind every reader that impossible situations can become possible.

PREFACE

Every life has a story, but not every story is told.

Against All Odds is the story of my journey—a journey marked by faith, sacrifice, hardship, disappointment, perseverance, and hope. It is not the story of a man who never failed; rather,

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it is the story of someone who refused to surrender despite repeated setbacks.

From my childhood in Jigawa State to my years at Adamawa State University, my path was filled with challenges that often seemed impossible to overcome. There were moments of joy and moments of tears, times of abundance and times of severe hardship. Yet, through every season of my life, I witnessed the mercy of Almighty Allah and the kindness of remarkable people whom He placed along my path.

This book is not written to seek sympathy or praise. Instead, it is written to inspire every reader who may be facing difficulties in life. I want my story to remind you that your current circumstances do not determine your future. With faith in Allah, patience, determination, and perseverance, every obstacle can become a stepping stone toward success.

As you turn these pages, I invite you to walk with me through the victories, the failures, the lessons, and the miracles that shaped my life. My sincere hope is that, by the time you reach the final page, you will find renewed courage to keep pursuing your own dreams regardless of the challenges before you.

May Allah (SWT) make this book a source of inspiration, hope,

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and benefit to everyone who reads it.

— Bello Abubakar Iggi

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- Avoid crime, cultism, drugs, gambling, immorality, and every path that leads away from Allah.

- Believe that every hardship comes to an end.

- Put your complete trust in Allah.

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About the Author

Bello Abubakar

A young Nigerian whose life journey demonstrates that faith in Allah, determination, patience, and perseverance can overcome even the greatest obstacles. His story reminds readers that no matter how difficult life becomes, success is possible for those who refuse to give up.

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CHAPTER ONE

My Early Years

«"Every great journey begins with a single step. Mine began in a small town, surrounded by love, sacrifice, and the unseen hand of Allah."»

My name is Bello Abubakar Iggi. I was born on 17 July 1999 in Iggi, a town in Birnin Kudu Local Government Area of Jigawa State, Nigeria. I am the son of Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi Iggi and Hajiya Zulaihat Abubakar Iggi, two remarkable parents whose sacrifices, guidance, and prayers became the foundation of my life's journey.

Shortly after my birth, I was taken to live with my maternal grandmother, Hajiya Fatima, affectionately known as Yar Yaya. She lived in Yada A Takai, a community in Takai Local Government Area of Kano State. It was there that I spent the earliest years of my childhood.

Those years remain among the most precious memories of

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my life. Under my grandmother's care, I experienced love, discipline, and the warmth of a peaceful home. Although I was too young to understand the significance of those moments, they laid the foundation of the values that would guide me throughout my life.

After some time, my father brought me back to Birnin Kudu, where I lived with one of his wives, Aunty Sakina. This marked another important chapter in my childhood. Living in a different environment exposed me to new experiences and gradually shaped my character and understanding of the world.

One of the greatest blessings of those early years was a kind and devoted neighbour who voluntarily gathered children in the neighbourhood to teach us how to read the Holy Qur'an. His patience, humility, and dedication inspired in me a deep love for Islamic education.

As I progressed, I was enrolled in an Islamic school, where I continued learning the Holy Qur'an and the basic principles of Islam. Those lessons became more than just religious education—they became the moral compass that guided me through the many challenges I would later face.

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Eventually, I returned to live with my parents, especially my beloved mother. Although I was still a young boy, every home I lived in and every person who cared for me left a lasting mark on my life. Each experience taught me valuable lessons about family, respect, patience, and gratitude.

Looking back today, I realise that my journey did not begin with comfort or certainty. Instead, it began with moving from one home to another, learning from different people, and receiving love and guidance in different forms. At the time, I could not understand why my path was different from that of many other children. Today, however, I see that Allah was preparing me for a life filled with lessons, resilience, and purpose.

Those early years became the opening pages of a story that would later grow into a testimony of faith, perseverance, and hope—a story that I now share with you in this book, Against All Odds.

Complications of chapter 1

CHAPTER ONE: AGAINST ALL ODDS (Continued)

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My educational journey began in Birnin Kudu, where I was enrolled in nursery school at Yakubu Pilot Primary School, together with my elder brother Umar Abubakar Iggi. I completed my nursery education there before my father later relocated us back to our family home in Iggi, where I started my primary education.

Later, my father, dissatisfied with the standard of the local school system at that time, made a decision that changed the course of our lives. He transferred me and my siblings — Mariya Abubakar Iggi, Aisha Isiyaku Iggi, and Shamsi Adamu Iggi — to a boarding school known as Model Boarding and Primary School, where I completed Primary 4 to Primary 6.

Early Education and Common Entrance

Between around 2008 and 2011, I completed my primary education and sat for the Common Entrance Examination. I successfully gained admission into Junior Science and Secondary School, Karkarna, in 2011.

Life at Karkarna: A Difficult Beginning

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My arrival at Karkarna marked one of the most challenging periods of my life. I left home on a Monday, crying, because I knew no one at the school and everything was completely new to me.

When I was taken to the hostel — known as Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Hostel — I began experiencing real hardship. I had no close friends at first except Sabiu Yakubu (Birnin Kudu, “Dan India”).

Life in the hostel was not easy. At times, my mattress was taken from me, and I sometimes slept under the bed. However, I refused to give up.

Struggles and Support

Despite the challenges, I continued my education. My father traveled to Saudi Arabia for Hajj during this period, and he bought me a wristwatch and a prayer mat, which meant a lot to me.

A teacher named Malam Yunusa Abdullahi Ringim also played

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an important role in my life by keeping my savings and supporting me with food items. My father also appreciated him with a valuable gift.

I later sat for my placement examination and gained admission into Government Unity Secondary School, Fantai Hadejia, in 2015.

Life in Hadejia

My journey continued in Hadejia, where I was still very young but determined. One Friday after a school break, my father picked me up from Dutse and gave me important advice about life, discipline, and avoiding trouble.

We also visited the Ministry of Education, where my father worked and later retired as a Director. He bought me a mattress and a wristwatch, and introduced me to his colleague Yusuf Yunusa Ganuwan Kuka, who hosted me briefly in his house in the G.R.A area of Hadejia.

After prayers in the afternoon, I was taken to school where I

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was introduced to a strict but respected teacher known as Malam Shehu. It was there that I met my closest friend and brother in spirit, Aliyu Auwalu Kure Iggi, who became my strongest support in school.

Academic Growth and Leadership

I was placed in the Arts Department, where I met several friends including:

Bello Isa Kanyu

Yahaya Abdullahi Kubuna

Sulaiman Abubakar Kashin Dila

Aminu Sani Hamza

I performed well academically and became one of the strong students in my class. I joined the Press and Debate Club,

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where I became Speaker 2, and also became a member of the Young Forest and Botanical Gardens Society.

Because of my communication skills, I was often chosen to speak in various school activities.

Final Year and JAMB Journey

During my final year, I traveled to Dutse with my elder brother Yaya Kamal, who assisted me with my JAMB registration. I scored 196 in JAMB and also obtained 9 credits in NECO.

My first choice was the Federal University Dutse, but I was not offered admission at that time.

However, my turning point came through a remarkable individual — Prof. Yusuf Abdullahi Manu, a lecturer at the Federal University Dutse. After observing my father's dedication, he offered to help secure admission for me in another institution.

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After discussions within my family, I agreed to move to Adamawa State for my studies.

Eventually, I was offered admission into the Adamawa State University, Mubi (ADSU).

END OF CHAPTER ONE

This was the beginning of my journey — a path filled with struggle, sacrifice, growth, and unexpected support. Every challenge shaped me into who I was becoming.

This is an excellent foundation for Chapter Two. I have rewritten it into polished, natural English while preserving your story and emotions.

CHAPTER TWO

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A New Beginning in Adamawa

After I received my admission into Adamawa State University (ADSU), another chapter of my life began. Before I could leave for the university, I was required to undergo a medical examination, as every newly admitted student had to do.

The result came as a surprise. The doctors informed me that I had a liver condition. My father became even more concerned about me. He had always loved me deeply, but after hearing the medical report, his care and sympathy for me increased. Despite the situation, we remained hopeful, and preparations for my journey continued.

On 1st May 2018, the day finally arrived for me to travel to Adamawa State. My father personally drove me to the motor park. While we were there, one of his friends also arrived with his son, Shamsi, who was already a student of Adamawa State University in the Department of Business Administration.

Saying goodbye to my father was one of the hardest moments of my life. As our bus pulled away, I struggled to hold back my

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tears. Leaving my family, especially my father, was painful, but I knew I had to move forward in pursuit of my education.

Our journey took us through Darazo and then into Gombe State. We stopped to observe our prayers and have lunch. At that time, I had very little money, so Shamsi kindly paid for my meal. That simple act of kindness meant a lot to me.

At about 5:30 p.m., as we entered Yola, we received a phone call with shocking news: two bombs had exploded in Mubi. Fear immediately filled my heart. I had never even heard the sound of gunfire before, and now I was travelling toward a town where such an incident had just occurred. I became anxious, but there was no turning back.

We continued our journey. Passing through several military checkpoints, we eventually arrived safely in Mubi by the grace of God.

Because it was already night, there were no taxis or tricycles available. My guardian, Malam Abbas, came with his car to pick us up. Along with Shamsi and one of his female classmates, we drove into town. We first dropped Shamsi at

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Lokuwa, then dropped his classmate at the university gate before heading to Malam Abbas's house at Kasuwan Borkono.

At that time, Malam Abbas and his wife, Aunty Hadiya, had just gotten married and did not yet have children. They welcomed me warmly into their home. I was given my own room, water to freshen up, and a delicious meal before I finally went to bed to rest after the long and exhausting journey.

Living in that house, I also met Hajja Akula, Yaya Aliyu, and Yaya Yunusa Abdullahi Manu. They all treated me like a member of their family.

The following morning, Malam Abbas accompanied me to Adamawa State University, where I completed my admission process into the Department of Economics. He also helped me pay my school fees because, at that time, I was still very young and did not even have a bank account.

We searched for accommodation inside the university, but unfortunately none was available. Malam Abbas then told me to continue living in his house since it was spacious enough.

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His generosity changed my life. Malam Abbas was not just anyone—he was a relative of Professor Yusuf Abdullahi Manu, the man whose kindness had made my admission possible. Once again, I realized that God places good people in our lives at the right time.

Through Malam Abbas, I met another remarkable man named Labaran Ganye. Words can hardly describe his kindness and generosity. I first met him at the university Senate Building, where he welcomed me warmly despite seeing that I was just a young freshman.

When Malam Abbas noticed that transportation was becoming financially difficult for me, he decided to buy me a bicycle. That bicycle became my daily means of transportation around campus and greatly reduced my expenses.

As the semester progressed, I settled into university life. I became popular among my classmates because I was outspoken, friendly, and loved interacting with people. Before long, many students started calling me "Senator." Both male and female students enjoyed my company, and I quickly built strong friendships across the department.

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Although I had just begun my university journey, I never imagined that the years ahead would bring challenges, opportunities, and life-changing experiences that would shape the man I would eventually become.

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CHAPTER THREE

Becoming "The Senator"

University life gradually became my new home. What had once felt strange and unfamiliar slowly became a place where I belonged.

Living in Malam Abbas's house gave me peace of mind. Instead of worrying about accommodation, I was able to focus on my studies and build meaningful relationships. Every day, I rode my bicycle to lectures, attended classes, completed assignments, and returned home grateful for the kindness I had received from those who believed in me.

In the Department of Economics, I quickly became known for my confidence and communication skills. I enjoyed expressing my ideas, participating in discussions, and speaking in front of others. Whether it was inside the classroom or among friends, I was never afraid to voice my opinions.

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Before long, my classmates gave me a nickname that stayed with me throughout my university years—"Senator."

It was more than just a nickname. It reflected the kind of person they saw in me. I loved bringing people together, encouraging my classmates, and making everyone feel welcome. Students from different backgrounds became my friends, and I treated everyone with respect. Both male and female students found me approachable, and I was always willing to help whenever I could.

Despite the happiness I experienced at the university, I never forgot where I came from. I remembered the difficult nights in boarding school, the sacrifices my parents had made, and the many people whom God had used to support me along the way. Those memories reminded me that success is never achieved alone.

Every phone call with my father strengthened my determination. His words of advice continued to guide me, even though we were hundreds of kilometres apart. My greatest desire was to make him proud and prove that every sacrifice he made for my education was worthwhile.

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As time passed, I became more involved in student life. My confidence continued to grow, and I realized that university was not only preparing me academically—it was also shaping my leadership skills and my character.

Little did I know that the journey ahead would test my faith, challenge my resilience, and introduce me to experiences that would change my life forever.

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CHAPTER FOUR

Learning Through Failure

My first semester at Adamawa State University was far more difficult than I had imagined.

Coming from secondary school, I was still very young and had little understanding of how the university system worked. I believed that studying at the university would be similar to what I had experienced before, but I soon discovered that it required much more discipline, independent learning, and personal responsibility.

When the first semester examinations were over, I waited anxiously for my results. The day I checked them remains unforgettable.

I had failed most of my courses.

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For a moment, I could not believe what I was seeing. I stared at the results again and again, hoping there had been a mistake. But the reality was painful.

I broke down in tears.

It was not because I believed I was incapable of succeeding. I cried because my thoughts immediately went to my father. I remembered the sacrifices he had made, the love he had shown me, and the trust he had placed in me. The thought of disappointing him hurt me more than the poor grades themselves.

That experience became a turning point in my life.

Instead of giving up, I made a promise to myself that I would never allow that disappointment to define my future. When the second semester began, I changed my attitude completely. I became more serious with my studies, attended lectures more regularly, and worked much harder than before.

The journey was not easy. Some days brought success, while

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other days brought disappointment. University life taught me that progress is not always a straight line. Sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose. What matters most is having the courage to keep moving forward.

Although many of my classmates encouraged me to contest for student leadership because of my confidence and communication skills, I chose not to. A close friend of mine wanted the position, and out of respect for our friendship, I stepped aside and allowed him to contest instead. At that stage of my life, I was still young and believed supporting a friend was more important than holding a title.

Despite my academic struggles, university also gave me something precious—friendship.

I was blessed with wonderful friends who became part of my journey. Among my closest friends were Taragi Ibrahim, Harisson, Victor Tino Emoh, Emonoje Bala Fwanya, Jennifer, Shinda Sini, Agatha John, and Maryam Yakubu. They stood by me through different moments of university life, sharing laughter, encouragement, and unforgettable memories.

Even with good friends around me, life was far from easy.

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Financial difficulties, academic pressure, and personal challenges tested my strength. There were times when I questioned myself, but I refused to let those obstacles stop me.

Looking back today, I realize that failure was not the end of my story. It was the beginning of a stronger version of myself. Every setback taught me a lesson, and every lesson prepared me for the victories that were still ahead.

The journey was only beginning, and greater challenges—and greater miracles—were yet to come.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Storms That Shaped Me

People often see success without knowing the battles that came before it. My journey was filled with challenges that

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tested my faith, my patience, and my determination.

I was born into a large family. In my mother's household, I was the firstborn, while in my father's family I was his fifth child. My elder siblings included Yaya Kamal, Umar Abubakar Iggi, Mariya Abubakar Iggi, and Aunty Zainab. Altogether, our extended family had nearly twenty-five children.

Growing up in such a large family was not always easy. Like many families, there were moments of favouritism, misunderstanding, and unequal treatment. As a child, I experienced some of these painful realities. At times, I felt overlooked, but I learned to endure without allowing bitterness to take root in my heart.

One memory from my primary school years has stayed with me. My elder brother, Umar, had joined the school before us and was already a senior student. One day, Shamsi and I cooked food without informing him. When he found out, he became very angry. He punished us and then took us to a strict teacher, Malam Alkasim Shehu Kumbura, who also disciplined us severely. I cried that day until I had no more tears. Although it was painful, that period eventually passed,

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and life moved on.

Another unforgettable challenge came when I entered Junior Science and Secondary School, Karkarna. On my very first day, another student took my mattress. For some time, I had no proper place to sleep and spent many nights sleeping underneath a bed. Those were difficult days, but by the grace of God, I endured and completed my secondary education.

My greatest academic challenge came during my university years. While many of my classmates graduated on time, I could not. Because of academic setbacks, I spent three additional years before finally completing my degree. Watching my classmates graduate while I remained behind was heartbreaking, but I refused to give up on my dream.

Shortly after I arrived in Adamawa, another trial came. My guardian, Malam Abbas, and his wife were involved in a road accident while travelling to Yola. He suffered a broken arm and had to remain there for treatment. Their absence left me under the care of Hajja Akula and Zuwaira Abdulmalik for a while. Later, I moved into the home of Labaran Ganye, where I lived alongside Imran Ganye and Jaga. Once again, God provided people who cared for me.

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Not long afterwards, another setback occurred. One Friday, after attending Mr. Enam P. Abalis's class, I discovered that my bicycle had been stolen. That bicycle was my only reliable means of transportation to and from the university. Losing it was painful, but instead of losing hope, I reminded myself of one simple truth: the same God who provided it could provide another.

Soon after, my father retired from public service. Life became much more difficult financially. There were days when I could not afford transportation, so I walked long distances to attend lectures. Some days I had no idea how I would pay my school fees, but I continued believing that God would make a way.

Then came another painful loss. Hajja Akula passed away. Her death deeply affected me because she had shown me kindness and motherly care. Although I mourned her, I found comfort in the words of the Qur'an: "Every soul shall taste death." Her passing reminded me that life is temporary and that every hardship must be faced with patience and faith.

Later, misunderstandings arose between me and Yaya Yunusa Abdullahi. The situation became so difficult that I

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eventually had to leave the house where I was staying. It was another painful chapter in my life, but with time, peace returned. Through it all, I never lost hope because I believed that Allah was always with me.

One of the greatest blessings of my years in Adamawa was watching the family of Malam Abbas grow. When I first arrived, he and his wife had no children. Over the years, Allah blessed them with Aisha Abbas (Nenne), Abdullahi Abbas (Abbati), and Baby Maryam. I came to love those children deeply, as though they were part of my own family.

Financial hardship remained a constant struggle throughout my university education. There were times when I could not afford my tuition fees. On several occasions, generous people stepped in to help me continue my studies. I remain forever grateful to Professor Yusuf Abdullahi Manu, Malam Abbas Abdullahi Manu, Dr. Adamu Jibrillah, the Head of the Department of Economics, **Dr, Ezikiel mijah, Prof,Adamu Yahaya Ganye Alh, Bello Musa Tijjani** and Malam Nuru. Without their generosity and encouragement, I might never have completed my university education.

Travelling home during holidays was another challenge. Many

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times, I had no money for transportation. Instead of giving up, I climbed into trailers travelling towards my destination. The journeys were uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous, but they were the only option available to me.

One incident that hurt me deeply involved someone very close to me. At one point, I urgently needed money to complete my school fees. I called my sister, Mariya Abubakar Iggi, hoping she could lend me the money since she had a monthly salary. Unfortunately, she was unable to help me. I felt deeply disappointed, but I chose not to allow that disappointment to destroy our relationship or my determination.

Later, I reached out to my brother, Umar Abubakar Iggi. Without hesitation, he gave me the money I needed. Even more touching was the fact that he never asked me to repay it. That act of kindness reminded me that God often answers our prayers through the people He places in our lives.

Looking back today, I understand that every hardship had a purpose. Every rejection made me stronger. Every setback taught me patience. Every disappointment strengthened my faith.

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I never stopped believing that Allah was writing a story greater than I could see.

And because of that faith, I kept moving forward.

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CHAPTER SIX

Holding on to Hope

There were many moments during my university years when giving up seemed like the easiest option. Academic pressure, financial hardship, family responsibilities, and personal disappointments all came one after another. Sometimes I wondered how much more I could endure.

Yet, every time life knocked me down, I found the strength to stand up again.

I came to understand that success is not measured by how quickly a person reaches the finish line. It is measured by the determination to keep moving, even when the road becomes longer than expected.

Watching many of my classmates graduate before me was one of the most painful experiences of my life. As they celebrated their achievements and prepared for the next stage of their lives, I remained behind, carrying the weight of extra

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years at the university.

There were moments when I questioned myself.

"Why is my journey different?"

"Why am I still here while others are moving forward?"

Although those questions filled my mind, I never questioned Allah's wisdom. Deep inside my heart, I believed that every delay had a purpose, even if I could not understand it at the time.

Whenever I remembered my parents—especially my father—I found fresh motivation. He had sacrificed so much for my education, and I refused to let his efforts be wasted. His prayers, advice, and unconditional love became the strength that carried me through my darkest days.

As the years passed, I became known not only for my friendliness but also for my resilience. Many people saw my

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smile, but very few knew the silent battles I was fighting every day.

Looking back now, I realize that those difficult years were preparing me for responsibilities far greater than I could imagine. They taught me humility when I wanted success, patience when I wanted quick results, and gratitude even when I had very little.

If there is one lesson my journey has taught me, it is this:

Never measure your life against someone else's timeline.

Some people arrive at their destination early.

Others take a longer road.

What matters is reaching your destination with your faith, your integrity, and your hope still alive.

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Today, I thank Allah for every delay, every hardship, and every unanswered prayer that eventually became a blessing in disguise.

My story was never about how quickly I succeeded.

It was about refusing to surrender when life became difficult.

And that is why my story is called Against All Odds.

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CHAPTER SEVEN

Graduation and Beyond

After years of struggle, setbacks, financial difficulties, academic challenges, and countless moments of uncertainty, the day I had been praying for finally arrived.

I graduated from Adamawa State University, Mubi, with a Third Class Bachelor's Degree in Economics.

To some people, a Third Class degree may not seem impressive. Many people judge success only by the class of a degree. However, my journey taught me a different lesson.

I have come to believe that success is not determined by whether you graduate with a First Class, Second Class, or Third Class. What truly matters is what you do with the knowledge you have gained, the values you have built, and the impact you make in the lives of others.

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There is a popular saying in Nigeria:

"It is not about the class of the degree; it is about what Allah blesses the certificate to achieve."

I accepted my result with gratitude because I knew the story behind it. I knew the tears I had cried, the nights I had gone to bed hungry, the days I walked long distances to attend lectures, the financial struggles, the disappointments, and the many people whom Allah used to support me.

Looking at my certificate, I did not see a "Third Class." I saw years of perseverance, patience, sacrifice, faith, and determination.

Graduation was not the end of my journey—it was the beginning of another chapter in my life. It reminded me that every delay has a purpose, every hardship has an end, and every sincere effort is rewarded in one way or another.

Today, I hold my degree with pride, not because of the class

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written on it, but because of the story behind it. My certificate represents victory over challenges that once seemed impossible to overcome.

To every student reading this book, never allow your CGPA or degree classification to define your future. Continue learning, continue working hard, develop your character, and trust in Allah. Your determination, integrity, and faith will take you farther than any number printed on a certificate.

As I closed one chapter of my educational journey, I looked ahead with hope, believing that Allah still had greater plans for my future.

The journey continues...

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A Message to My Readers

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. It is an honour to share my life's journey with you.

If there is one lesson I hope you will take from this book, it is that never give up, no matter how difficult life becomes. There were times when I failed, times when I cried, times when I had no money, and times when I thought my dreams might never come true. Yet, through every challenge, I held firmly to my faith in Almighty Allah and continued moving forward.

Life will not always be fair. You may experience disappointment, rejection, betrayal, or delay. People may doubt you, and circumstances may seem impossible. But remember that your present situation does not determine your future. Every hardship carries a lesson, and every delay has a purpose known only to Allah.

Never be ashamed to start small. Never allow failure to define

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you. Instead, let it teach you, strengthen you, and prepare you for greater success.

Respect your parents, honour your teachers, appreciate everyone who helps you, and never forget those who stood beside you during your difficult days. Gratitude is one of the greatest qualities a person can possess.

Above all, put your trust in Allah. Work hard, remain patient, make sincere du'a, and never lose hope in His mercy. Even when you cannot see the way forward, Allah is already preparing the path for you.

If my story has inspired even one person to continue fighting for their dreams, then writing this book has been worthwhile.

May Almighty Allah bless you, guide your steps, protect your family, grant you success in this life and the Hereafter, and make your own journey a source of inspiration to others.

Thank you for reading Against All Odds

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SPECIAL APPRECIATION

In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

As I bring this book to a close, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT), the Giver of life, knowledge, strength, and guidance. Every chapter of this book is a testimony to His mercy and favour upon my life. Without Him, none of this would have been possible.

My profound appreciation goes to my beloved parents, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi Iggi and Hajiya Zulaihat Abubakar Iggi. Thank you for your endless love, sacrifices, prayers, discipline, and unwavering belief in me. Whatever I have become today is built upon the foundation you laid. May Allah reward you abundantly.

To my dear brother, Umar Abubakar Iggi (Yaya Kamal), Ibrahim Abubakar Iggi (Babangida), and Abubakar Isiyaku Iggi, thank you for standing by me when I needed help the most. Your support during one of the most difficult moments of my educational journey will remain in my heart forever. May Allah reward you abundantly.

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I also appreciate my sister, Maimuna Abubakar Iggi, Aunty Hauwa, Aunty Zainab, and Mariya Abubakar Iggi. Although she could not assist me at a particular moment because of circumstances beyond her control, I remain grateful for her love, concern, and prayers.

My sincere gratitude goes to Professor Yusuf Abdullahi Manu, the man whom Allah used to bless and encourage me during my academic journey. May Allah continue to bless and reward him abundantly.

Your kindness, generosity, and belief in my future opened a door that I could never have opened by myself. May Allah reward you with endless blessings.

To Malam Abbas Abdullahi Manu and your entire family, thank you for welcoming me into your home and treating me like one of your own. Your love and generosity gave me comfort during my years in Adamawa, and I will never forget your kindness.

I also extend my appreciation to Dr. Adamu Jibrillah, Dr. Ezekiel Mijah, Prof. Adamu Yahaya Ganye, Malam Nuru, my lecturers, classmates, friends, and everyone who supported

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me academically, morally, financially, or spiritually throughout this journey.

To my best friends—Aliyu Auwalu Kures, Labaran Mohammed Joda, Ismail Hamidu Baba, Ismail Auwalu Lukaku, Josh Money, and Joy—thank you for being part of my university journey. The experiences we shared became some of the greatest lessons of my life and strengthened my conviction that no temporary difficulty is worth compromising my faith.

Finally, to every person whose name may not appear in this book but who contributed to my journey in one way or another, please know that your kindness is deeply appreciated. May Almighty Allah reward you beyond your expectations.

May Allah (SWT) bless you all, forgive your shortcomings, grant you good health, abundant provision, and Al-Jannah Firdaus.

With sincere gratitude,

Bello Abubakar Iggi

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bello Abubakar Iggi is a Nigerian author, economist, student leader, and social activist whose life story is a powerful testimony of faith, perseverance, and resilience.

Born on 17 July 1999 in Iggi, Birnin Kudu Local Government Area of Jigawa State, Nigeria, Bello's educational journey was marked by numerous challenges, including financial hardship, academic setbacks, and personal struggles. Despite these obstacles, he remained steadfast in his belief that determination, patience, and trust in Allah could overcome even the greatest difficulties.

He studied Economics at Adamawa State University, Mubi, where he became widely known among students as "The Senator" because of his commitment to leadership, unity, and service. His contributions to student welfare and campus activities earned him the Best Outstanding Social Activist of the Year Award.

Through Against All Odds, Bello shares his life's journey to

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inspire young people never to lose hope, regardless of the challenges they face. He believes that every setback can become the foundation for a greater future when met with faith, hard work, and perseverance.

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AGAINST ALL ODDS
A STORY OF FAITH, PERSEVERANCE AND TRIUMPH
ABOUT THE BOOK
Against All Odds is the extraordinary true story of Bello Abubakar Iggi—a young man who refused to surrender to the circumstances of his birth, financial hardship, academic challenges, and countless setbacks.
From a small town with limited resources to the lecture halls of university, this book is a powerful testimony of faith in Allah, hard work, resilience, and an unshakable belief in dreams.
It is more than a personal journey; it is a message of hope for every young person battling difficulties, reminding them that no situation is permanent and that impossible situations can become possible.
WHAT YOU WILL DISCOVER
How faith became the foundation of my strength
The real-life struggles behind my success
Lessons learned from failures and disappointments
The power of determination and perseverance
A message of hope for every dreamer
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Bello Abubakar Iggi is a student, a dreamer, and a believer. He comes from a humble background, but with a strong will to succeed. He is passionate about inspiring young people to believe in themselves, trust in Allah, and never give up on their dreams.
"Success is not measured by how many times you fall, but by how many times you rise after every fall. With faith in Allah, determination, and perseverance, every impossible journey can become a testimony."
— Bello Abubakar Iggi —
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